

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A method of establishing an audio-video conference, comprising the following steps:

5           a) holding an audio-only conference;  
              b) displaying static visual images during the audio-only conference; and  
              c) holding an audio conference accompanied by a live video conference.

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2. A method of establishing an audio-video conference, comprising the following steps:

15           a) setting up an audio-video conference on a high-bandwidth communication channel;  
              b) during the setting-up step, holding an audio conference using a POTS channel; and  
              c) after setting up completes  
                  i) holding the audio-video conference on the high-bandwidth channel; and  
                  ii) terminating the audio conference on the POTS channel.

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3. An apparatus, comprising:

a) a computer-readable storage medium;  
b) software means, physically configured in the storage  
medium, for:

5                   i) receiving image data from a remote location  
                      and displaying a static image, based on the data;  
                 ii) holding an initial audio conference with a  
                      remote communication device during display of  
                     the static image;  
10                 iii) holding a sequel to the audio conference with  
                     said remote device; and  
                 iv) holding a video conference with said remote  
                     device during the sequel.

15                 4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the initial audio  
conference is held using POTS lines, and the sequel is held using a high-  
bandwidth channel.

*actual A-1*